

Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2016
U of M Environmental Interpretive Center
Dearborn, MI 48128

Directors Present: Keith Armitage (KA), Alice Bailey (AB), Mike Darga (MD), Heather Esper (HE), Chester Marvin (CM), Mike McNulty (MM), Dave Norwood (DN), Brandy Siediaczek (BS), Susan Thompson (ST), Carla VanKampen (CVK), Steve Weis (SW) (11 total)

Directors Excused: Adam Cloutier (AC), Andrew Hoffman (AH), William Stone (WS) (3 total)

Directors Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Karen Hannah (KH), Erin Cassaday (EC), Sally Petrella (SP), Cyndi Ross (CR1) (4 total)

1) CALL TO ORDER

President MD called the meeting to order at 5:23pm

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve agenda made by KA, seconded by KA, seconded by SW. Motion carried

3) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. Minutes June 8, 2016 informational only. Motion to approve made by KA, seconded by CR2. Motion carried

4) REPORTS (also refer to reports in Board packet)

a. Rouge Education Project (REP)

REP Monitoring Day kicking off October 5, 2016

Received \$10,000 from GM Hamtramck

b. River Restoration/Volunteer Monitoring (PI)

KH is wrapping up the Rouge Rescue Report

Wrapping up GLRI and Rain Gardens to the Rescue work for the season

Two healthy lawn and garden workshops coming up this fall

Submitted QAPP for Green Infrastructure grant and waiting to hear from grantee

Received a \$10,000 grant for fish surveys to fill in Rouge data gaps. Sampling 20 sites begins tomorrow. The goal of the surveys is for delisting fish impairments. The sampling QAPP is approved.

Attended the RRAC meeting today and there is an extra \$6.5 million for projects in the area to work toward delisting. The Dearborn Oxbow, Henry Ford Estate Fish Passage, Nankin Lake in Rouge/Detroit AOC funded. Belle Isle projects are funded in the first year, six projects in the Rouge in the second, third year

GLRI restoration day is on October 21 at the Henry Ford

The Fall Bug Hunt is October 15, 2016

The September 17, 2016 Lower Rouge kayak tour is full

The Rouge water trail guide is completed and NPS printed 10,000 copies for distribution

The launch at Goudy Park in the City of Wayne is completed and a ribbon cutting tentatively planned for the same day as the Lower Rouge public canoe trip October 8, 2016

c. Membership Update/Committee

d. Fund Development Committee

Next meeting is right after the board meeting

e. Finance Committee/Treasurer

i. May 2016

ii. June 2016

iii. July 2016

Motion to approve financial reports made by DN, seconded by KA. Motion carried

f. Executive Committee

5) NEW BUSINESS

a. Boat tours

Cancelled the Rouge Brew Tour; the August boat tour made a \$6525 surplus

119 people attended the August cruise, \$7000 net profit, not including staff time, 141 reservations

b. Free Press Marathon

\$720 raised so far, 13 runners, new fundraiser page setups, exceeding number of volunteers

c. Erb Foundation coordination

c. Funding database-Metasoft

Looking at another database

d. Healing our Waters membership

Motion to approve HOW membership made by ST, seconded b DN. Motion carried

e. Staff issues/concerns

30th Anniversary picnic was fun, 150 persons signed in and the expenses were under budget. Received a plaque from Dearborn, a visit from the Mayor, and State of Michigan resolution recognizing the anniversary

f. FOTR/ARC Merger Next Steps

Working on securing a recruiter for the Executive Director position. Several resumes received so far. The Erb Foundation is funding the recruiter, and moving forward with hiring the recruiter

g. Executive Director search

Hired a recruiter and received several potential resumes for the ED interviews. Anticipate considering candidates in mid-late October

h. Discussion

i. Board training

j. Additional issues from the floor

Trailer for FOTR project equipment hauling could be funded through a grant. The City of Livonia DPW is allowing FOTR to store the trailer at their yard when not in use. The insurance costs \$96.00 a year. Motion to purchase the trailer made by DN, seconded by MM. Motion amended to include monies to detail the trailer with the FOTR logo. Motion carried

The interns are being given a time extension to assist with additional work. They are extended through November 2016

Consider hiring full time staff for Rouge Rescue projects in 2017. There are 5500 hours allotted in the grant and this could be up to two years of time under the NPS grant

Annual meeting last year extended the time of the board members to December 2016. Need to have Annual meeting by the end of 2016. Need to recruit candidates as 2/3 of the board will be up for re-election. Potential meeting sites are the Livonia Library. Need commitment from current board members and put out call for other board candidates

k. Sign thank you notes

7) ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by KA, seconded by ST. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:22pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson
FOTR Secretary